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MAIL STOP AMENDMENT



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Z. Hu et al.

Attorney Docket No.: SEMT116058

Application No.: 10/667,802

Art Unit: 1742 / Confirmation No: 2157

Filed: September 22, 2003

Examiner: W.T. Leader

Title: PLATINUM ALLOY USING ELECTROCHEMICAL DEPOSITION

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Seattle, Washington 98101

January 25, 2006

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

The Office Action mailed January 4, 2006, issued a restriction requirement between two patentably distinct groups of inventions classified as follows: Group I, containing Claims 1-12 and Group II containing Claims 13-27. In the event the Restriction Requirement is not withdrawn, Applicants hereby provisionally elect Group II.

Applicant's respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement because the inventions of Group I and II are not distinct pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 121 for the following reasons. The Restriction Requirement asserts that the bath of Group I claims can be used to form processes other than that of the Group II claims. Applicant's respectfully disagree with the above since the bath claims of Group I are limited to a composition useful for depositing noble metal alloy onto a surface of a microelectronic workpiece. Perhaps even more persuasive is the fact that the Restriction Requirement does not establish that there would be a serious burden on the Office by examining both inventions in the same application. The inventions are classified in the same class, albeit in different subclasses and the field of search would be the same.

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For these reasons, Applicant's assert that the outstanding Restriction Requirement is improper and respectfully request its withdrawal.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date.

Date: January 25, 2006

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